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144. Proposed by F. P. MATZ, Sc. D., Ph. D., Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy in Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio.

In a circular park 400 feet in diameter are 4 *equal* circular ponds of *variable* diameter. What is the probability that a sightless person walking in a straight line from the center of the park, will step into a pond ?

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

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138. Proposed by L. C. WALKER, A. M., Graduate Student, Leland Stanford Jr. University, Cal.

Find an invariant of the *third degree* in the coefficients of a ternary quartic.

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Given the roots of a binary cubic, to find the roots of its two independent covariants.

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### NOTES.

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Professor W. F. Osgood of Harvard University, has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics. F.

Dr. C. A. Noble has been promoted to an assistant professorship of mathematics at the University of California. F.

Professor Alexander Macfarlane delivered, at Lehigh University, April 20-23, a course of six lectures on the British mathematicians, Kirkham, Babbage, Whewell, Dodgson, Stokes, and Rayleigh. F.

Professor John J. Quinn has brought to public attention a third triangle, to be used with the two triangles commonly used in drawing sets, and in a small circular illustrates many constructions which are easily made by means of this triangle of which he is the inventor. F.

Professor Josiah Willard Gibbs, of Yale University, died at New Haven, April 28th, 1903, of heart disease. Professor Gibbs was born in New Haven, Feb. 11, 1839, and graduated at Yale in 1858. In 1863, he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. After studying in Paris, Berlin, and Heidelberg, he was appointed, in 1871, to the Professorship of Mathematical Physics in Yale, which position he held until the time of his death. He was a member of the Royal Society of London, of the National Academy of Science, of the American Mathematical Society, and many other learned bodies. He was an authority of the first rank in thermo-dynamics, and in the application of vector analysis to physical problems. Last year, 1902, he published a work entitled *Elementary Principles in Statistical Mechanics*. F.